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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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TO : Department of State

DEPT PASS: GUATEMALA(2) OF STATE AIDCS, STATE
 REVIEWED BY Caj AUG 13 10 27 AM 1969
 PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA DATE: 10/23/69

SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY: Chart of Incidents, July 1969

REF :

AUG 14 1969

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 BUREAU OF
 INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
 AUG 20 1969

1. In retrospect, July proved one of the quietest months on record in terms of politically motivated violence. The respite came on the heels of two consecutive months of quite high levels that seemed to portend both an upswing in urban terrorism and a recrudescence of vigilante activity in some rural areas. However, the Embassy's data for July indicated that the level of political violence dropped sharply in both Guatemala City and the Northeastern Departments and remained at a statistically stable level along the South Coast. The total number of incidents was at the lower limit of the 20-50 monthly rate considered "normal" for Guatemala.

2. Incidents possibly carried out by Leftist terrorists in Guatemala City were sporadic and largely ineffective. Examples: July 16 - PMA (Mobile Military Policeman) wounded when shot at from passing car in Zone 12; 16th - several members of gang captured after \$1,500 purse-snatching said to be low-level FAR members; 17th - cashier of bus company robbed of \$1,800 by band of youths, later that night PMA shot at by group in speeding car (perhaps by same band during getaway); 26th - taxi driver accosted by three armed youths attempting to steal his vehicle, driver is wounded, youths flee; and 27th - private security guard shot and seriously wounded, weapons stolen by unidentified youths. These incidents reveal more coordination and planning than most straight criminal attacks, but do not show the polish or the success of operations run by top subversive leaders. Perhaps low-level, newly recruited guerrillas are conducting training programs on their own initiative.

Enclosure: att EP

Chart of Incidents

1969 AUG 18 PM 2 07

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Drafted by: POL:DHClare:mm:8/8/69

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:SMolly

Clearances:

POL-I:JWilson

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3. San Marcos continues to present something of a puzzle. We have included in our data five incidents during the month of July from that Department: the slaying of three finca owners in the Malacatan area (one on the 14th and two on the 19th); a bomb at the house of an MLN leader in San Marcos on the 1st (concurrently with one set off at MLN headquarters in Quezaltenango); and the unusual and apparently well-organized robbery of passengers on an inter-city bus on the 5th. No firm evidence has been adduced to link these crimes with subversives, however.

4. An interesting glimpse of the impact leftist groups have made upon Guatemalan political leaders emerged during the Salvador-Honduras dispute.

[REDACTED] Some believed that MR-13 and FAR guerrillas were actively engaged in the Nueva Ocotepeque area--firing on both sides to keep the conflict alive and scavenging discarded weapons and ammunition -- and a story to this effect appeared in the PRENSA LIBRE. We have no evidence to support this contention.

[REDACTED] It may be that the restraint MLN-PID presidential candidate Col. Carlos ARANA is said to have urged upon the fanatic Right has had some effect. After the June flurry of attacks on PR leaders in the Northeast, July's evidence indicated a substantial decline in this type attack.

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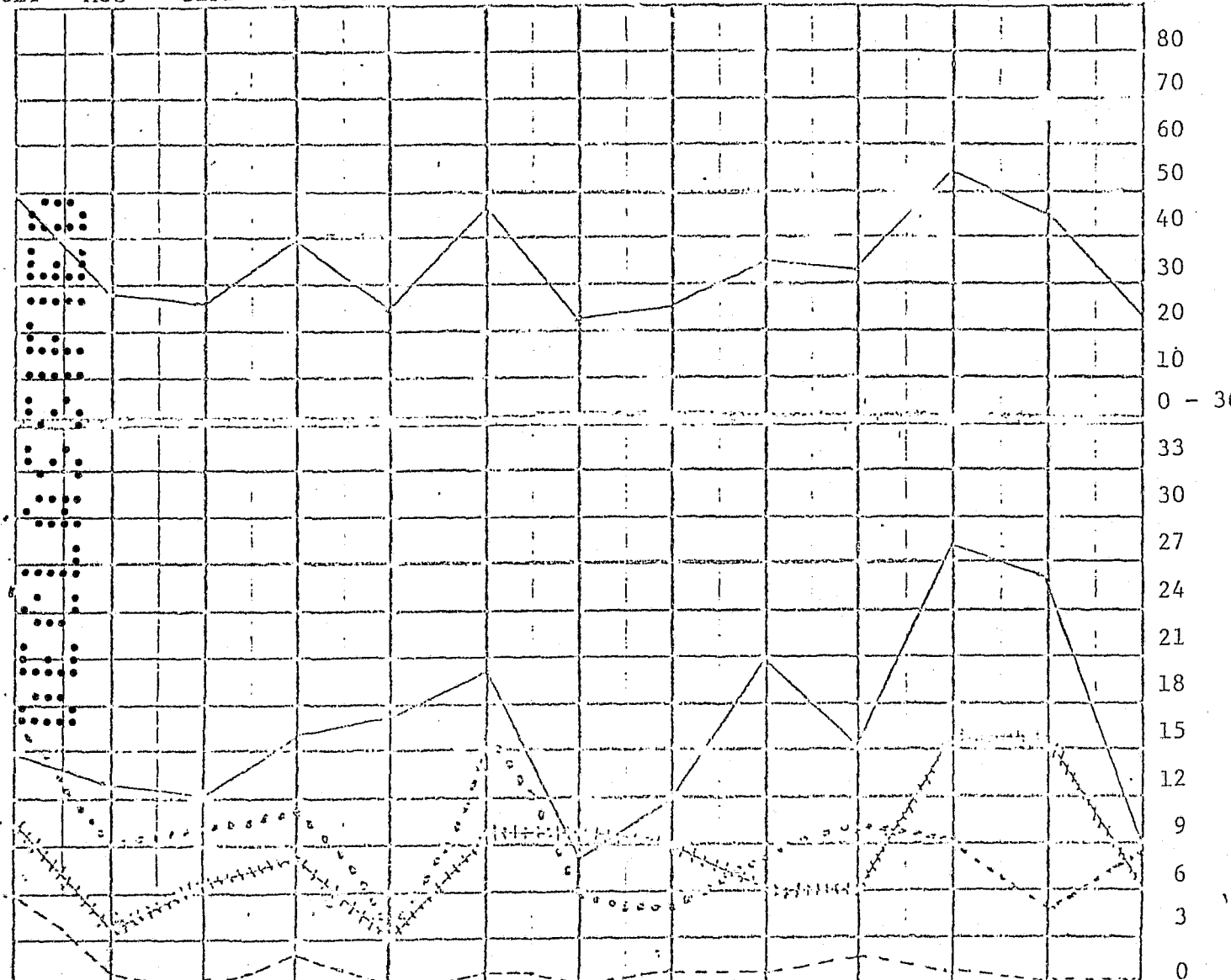
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MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF TERRORIST RELATED INCIDENTS BY REGION
JULY 1968-JULY 1969

Enclosure
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8-14-69

JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY



Total 23

0 - 36

Capital 9 (2)
South Coast 3 (3)
East 6 (4)

Highlands 0 (5)

- (1) For purposes of this graph both acts of violence includes shootings, bombings, etc., and assassinated bodies.
 (2) Capital Area: Sacatepequez, Guatemala
 (3) South Coast: San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa
 (4) Eastern Region: Jutiapa, Jalapa, El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal
 (5) Highlands: Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alto Verapaz, Sololá.

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